What is claimed:

1. A bistable percutaneous heart valve, comprising:

an elastic annular ring;

a body member having a plurality of legs, each leg connecting at one end to said annular ring;

at least two claws that are adjustable from a first position to a second position by application of external force so as to allow ingress of surrounding heart tissue into said claws in said second position, wherein upon removal of the external force the claws elastically revert to the first position so as to grip the heart tissue positioned within the claws, thereby holding said heart valve in place; and

at least one leaflet membrane connected to at least one of said annular ring, said body member and said legs, said at least one leaflet membrane having a first position for blocking blood flow therethrough and a second position for allowing blood flow therethrough.

2. A heart valve as in claim 1, wherein said annular ring is adapted to fit in a mitral valve opening of a heart.

3. A heart valve as in claim 1, wherein said annular ring is adapted to fit in an aortic valve opening of a heart.

4. A heart valve as in claim 1, wherein said annular ring is adapted to fit in a pulmonary valve opening of a heart.

5. A heart valve as in claim 1, wherein said annular ring is adapted to fit in a tricuspid valve opening of a heart.

6. A heart valve as in claim 1, wherein said annular ring, said body member, said legs, said claws and said at least one leaflet membrane fold into a collapsed position for insertion into a catheter for percutaneous delivery to the heart for implantation.

7. A heart valve as in claim 6, wherein said heart valve has a first stable position after passage through the catheter and a second stable position to which the heart valve is forced for implantation.

8. A heart valve as in claim 7, wherein said body member and legs push outward on said annular ring in said second stable position so as to assist anchoring said heart valve in said heart tissue.

9. A heart valve as in claim 1, wherein said annular ring is expandable radially to anchor the heart valve at an implantation position.

10. A heart valve as in claim 7, wherein each claw is connected to at least one of said annular ring and a leg so as to permit movement of each claw from said first position to said second position.

11. A heart valve as in claim 1, wherein further comprising at least one filament connecting said body member to said claws, said filament extending proximally from said heart valve so as to permit control of said claws between said first and second positions from a location remote from an implantation position of said heart valve.

12. A heart valve as in claim 11, further comprising a motion restraint that restrains one side of said claws while said at least one filament is connected to another side of said claws, whereby pulling said at least one filament causes the claws to open.

13. A heart valve as in claim 1, wherein said body member and claws are integrated into a one-piece design.

14. A bistable percutaneous heart valve, comprising:

an expandable elastic annular ring;

a body member having a plurality of legs, each leg connecting at one end to said annular ring;

at least two claws that are adjustable to guide said heart valve to an implantation position; and

at least one leaflet membrane connected to at least one of said annular ring, said body member and said legs, said at least one leaflet membrane having a first position for blocking blood flow therethrough and a second position for allowing blood flow therethrough,

wherein said expandable annular ring expands to anchor said heart valve at said implantation position.

15. A heart valve as in claim 14, wherein said annular ring, said body member, said legs, said claws and said at least one leaflet membrane fold into a collapsed position for insertion into a catheter for percutaneous delivery to the implantation position.

16. A method of implanting a bistable percutaneous heart valve, comprising the steps of:

folding said bistable percutaneous heart valve into a collapsed position;

inserting a catheter into a patient and guiding a distal end of said catheter to a position adjacent an implantation position in a patient's heart;

inserting said folded heart valve into said catheter and steering said folded heart valve to said distal end of said catheter using a guiding device;

guiding said folded heart valve beyond said distal end of said catheter so as to cause said heart valve to elastically unfold to a stable unfolded position;

forcing the unfolded heart valve into a second stable position;

guiding the heart valve to the implantation position;

adjusting at least two claws of said heart valve by the application of an external force so as to allow ingress of surrounding heart tissue into said claws, whereupon removal of the external force the claws elastically revert to an initial position so as to grip the heart tissue positioned within the claws, thereby holding said heart valve in place; and

removing the guiding device and the catheter.

17. A method as in claim 16, comprising the further step of repeating the steps of guiding the unfolded heart valve to the implantation position and adjusting the claws to hold the heart valve in place until the position, stability and functioning of the heart valve are satisfactory.

18. A method as in claim 16, wherein said implantation position is a mitral valve opening of the heart.

19. A method as in claim 16, wherein said implantation position is an aortic valve opening of the heart.

20. A method as in claim 16, wherein said implantation position is a pulmonary valve opening of the heart.

21. A method as in claim 16, wherein said implantation position is a tricuspid valve opening of the heart.

22. A method as in claim 16, wherein an elastic annular ring of the heart valve pushes outward on heart tissue in the stable unfolded position so as to assist anchoring said heart valve in said heart tissue.

23. A method as in claim 16, wherein said external force is applied in said claws adjusting step by manipulating at a proximal end of said catheter at least one filament that passes through said catheter and connects at a distal end to said claws so as to cause said claws to move to a position permitting said ingress of surrounding heart tissue into said claws.

24. A method as in claim 23, wherein said at least one filament is further used to switch the heart valve from the stable unfolded position to the second stable position prior to implantation.